executives. Action has also been initiated to tighten legislative provisions for foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks. As per the information available from the Indian Banks' Association, the public sector banks have recovered an amount of Rs. 13,663 crore during the year 2000-2001 from their NPA accounts.

New Industrial Units in Bihar

† *323. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of granting special exemption in the Central Excise to Bihar on the lines of the North-Eastern States like Assam for setting up of new industrial units and to revive the old sick industrial units for the development of Bihar is pending; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the Memorandum was examined and demand for special exemption under Central Excise was not favourably considered.

Levy of Excise on Independent Textile Process House

† *324. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Independent Textile Process House, the cost of whose plant and machinery is less than Rs. three crores, had been given the option of compound levy of excise;

(b) the number of applications received for granting recognition to the Process House possessing machinery worth Rs. three crores and the number of applications from Bhilwara out of them togetherwith the number of applications accepted and rejected; and

(c) the details of the legal ground for their rejection or approval?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the reports received, 149 applications were received including 9 from Bhilwara. Of these, 49 applications have been accepted, 3 applications have been withdrawn and 6 applications have been rejected. The balance 91 applications, which includes all the 9 applications from Bhilwara, are under various stages of verification, calling for documentary evidence, personal hearing, passing of orders, etc.

(c) Of the 6 applications rejected, 2 were rejected for the reason that the applications were submitted beyond the due date statutorily prescribed. The balance 4 applications were rejected for the reason that on verification it was found that the original value of investment in plant and machinery installed in the processing factory exceeded the eligibility limit of Rs. 3 crore. 49 applications have been accepted since the applicants were found to be fulfilling all the conditions prescribed under the compounded levy scheme.

Release of telephone connections in Mainpuri District (UP)

† *325. SHRIR.N.ARYA:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide telephone connections to villages expeditiously;

(b) whether Government have any plan to provide telephones during this year to the applicants from village Anjani, District Mainpuri (UP);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of persons from this village who have submitted their applications in this regard; and

(e) by when telephone connections would be provided in this village?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) It is planned to provide 16.85 lakh Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in rural areas during 2001-2002. Out of this, 13.52 lakh lines will be on land lines and 3.33 lakh lines on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL).

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.